THE BRIEF

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Dean
C. Paul Rogers III

Director of Development and Alumni Relations
Katherine L. Friend

Project Manager
John Michael Kennedy

Editor
Janet P. Balch

Creative Director
Sherry King Myres

Art Director
Robert Crawford

Photography
Doug Hopfer

On the cover: 1990 graduate and Baker & Botts associate Betty Ellsworth uses the Lexis™/Nexis™ service with a laptop computer — a twist on traditional legal research and education tools — while teetering atop a mountain of outmoded books and papers. All computers pictured in this issue of *The Brief* were provided by Mead Data Central, Inc., provider of the Lexis™/Nexis™ service. Photograph by Doug Hopfer.

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Features

4 Of Bytes and Briefs: Computers in Legal Education at SMU *by Regis W. Campfield.* Legal computer expert Campfield discusses the far-reaching positive aspects of computerizing the law school and the law profession, and highlights some of the best software programs to do both.

10 NLRB Rulemaking: Has An Old Board Learned a New Trick? *by Charles J. Morris.* For years, the National Labor Relations Board has shied away from its rulemaking powers. Now it is trying a different approach and may soon perfect a new routine.

16 Fighting To Be Free: SMU's Political Asylum Project *by Karen Keltz Haring.* Political asylum law is confusing for refugees and challenging for Texas attorneys. This distinctive clinical program is helping those in need and creating culturally sensitive future attorneys.

21 Women and Men in the Professions — A Question of Balance in the 21st Century *by Janet P. Balch.* As women increase their impact on the work force of the future, the 5th Annual Conference of the Professions featured legal, cleric, and medical professionals ruminating on their respective gender balance efforts and trends.

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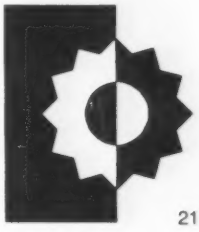

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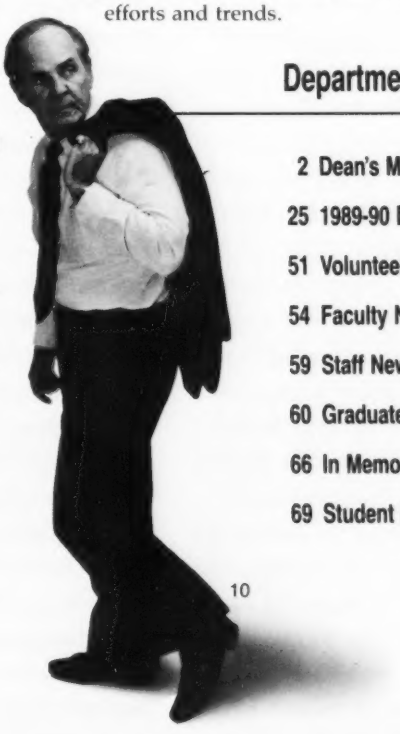

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